

Base Briefs

SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday. Set clocks ahead 1 hour.

VENDOR DELIVERIES

Beginning Monday, all commercial and vendor vehicles are required to enter the base through the Lompoc Gate between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. After Monday, special consideration for delivery vehicles entering the installation at other gates will only be considered on a case-by-case basis. Security forces request all organizations affected by this procedure contact their respective commercial or vendor agents. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael McKinney at 605-2585 or 605-0792.

FREE VEGETABLES

The Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau offers free fresh vegetables to all active-duty and Reserve military families today from noon to 7 p.m. at the Santa Maria Fair Park and in Vandenberg Village at 3734 Constellation Road.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Air Force Sergeant's Association is conducting a general membership meeting at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday. AFSA membership is open to all active-duty and retired enlisted military members. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Scott Astrofsky at 606-8700.

TROOP SUPPORT

The Department of Defense has proposed ways for Americans to show support for U.S. service members in Iraq. Post e-mail letters to the Web at <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil/About.html>. Supporters can also visit Veterans Administration hospitals and nursing homes, coach children's sports teams, feed the homeless and request local military members to speak at community events.

SPRING BREAK

Traditional-year Lompoc Unified School District schools and adult education facilities close for spring break April 14-18.

STITCH IN TIME

Rank, nametapes, and patches will be sewn on uniforms free of charge for airmen E-4 and below from 4 to 7 p.m. April 11 at G.I. Java. Volunteer sewers are needed. Call Chaplain (1st Lt.) Mike Martin at 606-5773 for more information.

AIR FORCE RESERVE

Military members can continue their careers in the Air Force Reserve, which counts toward fulfilling the Military Service Obligation. For more information, call Master Sgt. Brenda Kartheiser at 606-2704.

COMBAT DINING-IN

The 30th Space Wing's Combat Dining-In is postponed to May 10 in Cocheo Park. Tickets cost \$10 and are available from unit first

See BRIEFS Page A3

Atlas, Titan launches on track for summer

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Team Vandenberg prepares for the next two space launches, an Atlas IIAS and a Titan II, both scheduled to launch during the summer.

The Atlas II carries a National Reconnaissance Office payload and is planned for mid-June, while the Titan II, carrying a Defense Meteorological Satellite Program payload, is set for July.

Current operations in Iraq have not affected the launch dates, nor have protestors' activities, said Capt. Daniel Wetmore, 2nd Space Launch Squadron Titan flight commander.

The NRO designs, builds and operates the nation's reconnaissance satellites. According to its mission statement, the NRO develops and operates unique and innovative space reconnaissance systems and conducts intelligence-related activities essential for U.S. national security.

DMSP satellites monitor the atmospheric, oceanographic and solar-geophysical environments of the Earth. The satellites are in a near polar orbit and cover the Earth about twice per day.

Each payload is an extension of currently active programs.

"The payloads are not mission critical. They aren't being sent up to fill holes in our current networks of satellites, but they will be indirectly responsible for furthering current missions around the world," Wetmore said.



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

The final Atlas IIAS rocket to be launched from Vandenberg is raised into the mobile service tower on Space Launch Complex-3 March 18.

Team V promotes 43 during March, April

■ Congratulations to the following members of Team Vandenberg promoted during March and April.

Airman
Mark Herrington II, 30th CES
CES
Zachary Long, 30th CES
Airman 1st Class
Yadram Baijoo, 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Senior Airman
Dionisio Casas, 30thth Civil Engineer Squadron
Benjamin Rosen, 30th CES
Mark Brady, 30th Contracting Squadron
Terence Blakely, 30th Security Forces Squadron
Justin Parrish, 30th SFS
Laura Barth, 30th Weather Squadron
Charles Beran, 30th WS
Susan Brennan, 30th WS
Staff Sergeant
Michael Napolitano, 30th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron
Mohamad Hammoud, 30th SFS
Joshua Wilson, 576th FLTS
Technical Sergeant
Maurice Lovelady, 14th Air Force
Derek Greene, 30th SFS
Ronald Evans, 576th FLTS
Paul Feneis, 576th FLTS
Jeffrey Lynn, 576th FLTS
Derek Mccurry, 576th FLTS
Derrick Page, 576th FLTS
Erwin Tarr, 576th FLTS
Timothy Llano, 595th Space Support Group
Frank Seagren, 595th SSG

Daniel Loper, 614th SOPS
James Polacek, 614th SOPS
Master Sergeant
Robert Dunn Jr. 2nd Space Launch Squadron
Robert Park, 30th CES
Rhoderic Mendoza, 614th Operations Support Flight
Senior Master Sergeant
Rudy Gutierrez, 30th SFS
David Malone, 576th Flight Test Squadron
Glen Eckart, 614th Space Operations Squadron
James Truman, 614th SOPS
First Lieutenant
Mark Carter, 17th Test Squadron
Kelly Gabel, 30th Space Wing Public Affairs
Donovan Gonzalez, 30th LRS
Ernest Laster, 2nd SLS
Captain
Nathaniel Jones, 14th Air Force
Major
Claire Shervanick, 30th Medical Group
GS-6
Virginia Battles, 381st Training Group
WG-10
Roberto Bazan, 30th CES
GS-11
Frank Vitelli Jr., 30th CES
GS-13
Joseph Nemeth, 30th Space Wing



PHOTOS BY DAN GABEL

Left: Locals gather at the gate to show support for the base. Above: More than 40 Harley riders paraded by the base Saturday in a rally for troops.

Community gathers to support U.S. troops

By 2ND LT. JENNIFER WHITAKER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ A group of more than 30 military supporters gathered at the Santa Maria Gate here Saturday to show their appreciation for the nation's military and Vandenberg AFB. Among them were civilians, Air Force retirees and family members, and a group of local bikers.

Members of the group held signs with slogans like "Support Vandenberg" and "Honk for our troops." Many drivers obliged, honking their horns to show their support.

"We love to hear the horns blow," said Fred Thomas, a World War II veteran from

Santa Maria. "It shows us that a lot of people feel like we do."

As supporters waved American flags on the street corner, Harley-Davidson riders paraded by with flags streaming to show their appreciation for the troops.

Frank Haralson was one of them.

"We're here to let our boys and girls so far away, know that we're thinking about them, that we need them and we love them," Haralson said.

The demonstrators were peaceful and broke no laws. Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Tony Fox said the purpose of the pro-troops rally was to give Vandenberg airmen an even dose of support in light of recent anti-war protests.

Spouses raise \$20K

By AIRMAN JUANIKA GLOVER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ The Vandenberg Spouse's Club annual charity auction raised more than \$20,000 Saturday at the Pacific Coast Club here. The VSC uses the funds raised to support base charities.

Approximately 275 people attended the four-hour auction, which was a combination of live, silent and dessert auctions.

Items such as bicycles, quilts, golf packages, food baskets and Sept. 11 memorabilia were up for bid, said Troi Reppart, VSC Welfare and Fundraising chairman.

She said when the doors opened at 6 p.m., everyone who entered registered and received a bid paddle with a number on it. People first began bidding on the silent auction. Then they snacked on complimentary hors d'oeuvres and afterward found their tables.

The auction's theme was "The Spirit of America" and patriotism was in the air. Reppart said the VSC made yellow ribbons to honor deployed troops and distributed them for everyone to wear.

"Every single person I saw was dressed in red, white and blue or had a patriotic pin. But the most patriotic outfit had to be the one worn by Chief Master Sgt. Michael Morey, command chief master sergeant of the 30th Space Wing. He came dressed as Uncle Sam and he even had the hat," Reppart said.

The package that sold for the largest amount of money included two rattan rockers with a matching ottoman.

"They were beautiful and we got \$620 for them," Reppart said.

People were definitely excited and amazed when they walked into the ballroom, which was decorated with a red, white and blue balloon arch stretched above the doors of the ballroom," she said.

"The best item auctioned was a Santa Barbara excursion, which included a two-night stay at the Radisson, a \$50 gift certificate to go shopping at the plaza, a surrey rental, tickets to the movies and tickets for a visit at the zoo. However, there were so many wonderful things, I believe we had something for everyone," said Reppart.

She said the smallest item auctioned was a San Jose hockey puck autographed by rookie player Jonathan Cheechoo.

Reppart said people were very curious to know if Master Sgt. Ramie Nakashima, 30th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant, had made a coin holder.

He did indeed make one, and he filled it with Team Vandenberg coins. It sold for \$450, Reppart said.

"The event turned out to be very successful. I believe it broke the record for past auctions. Charity auctions are a common fundraiser for spouses' clubs but several people said this was the biggest one they had ever seen," Reppart said.

The fundraising chairman said she was sure the VSC boardmembers would have much to discuss at the next few meetings. The board is considering increasing the dollar amount for the scholarships it supports.

Reppart said that no matter what, \$20,000 would impact a lot of lives.

Rumsfeld demands unconditional surrender of Iraqi regime

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

■ WASHINGTON – The only thing the coalition is willing to discuss with the leaders of the Iraqi regime is their unconditional surrender, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Tuesday.

To get an idea of the progress the coalition is making in Iraq, people must try to view the world as Saddam Hussein – if he's still alive – sees it, he said.

In northern Iraq, coalition special operations forces are working with local groups to bomb Republican Guard targets and otherwise harass Iraqi forces. The

U.S. 173rd Airborne Brigade is now at full-strength in the area and is providing security.

In the west, special operations forces are ensuring critical areas are held, and Iraqi forces are not able to fire surface-to-surface missiles at their neighbors.

In the south, coalition divisions are securing Basra, while still others are poised to take on Republican Guard forces before Baghdad.

Rumsfeld traced the actions of the first 12 days of combat. He said most people expected the operation would be much like Desert Storm in 1991.

"In that case, it was a sustained 38-day air campaign, followed by a brief ground attack," Rumsfeld said. "In this case, the ground attack actually started before the air war, with thousands of special (operations) forces pouring into all regions of the country and a large force rolling across the Kuwaiti border into southern Iraq."

And the Iraqi people are seeing the regime crashing down, Rumsfeld said. "The majority of Iraqis do not support Saddam Hussein's regime," he said. "Their obedience is based on fear. And that fear is beginning to slip away as coalition forces advance."

Rumsfeld said that the regime is using death squads to maintain the climate of fear among the people and to force men to fight. "They are vicious, but they are now taking heavy losses," he said. "And the regime's tactics have been unable to stop the coalition."

And in all this, where is Saddam? "The night before the ground war began, coalition forces launched a strike on a meeting of Iraq's senior command and control, and they have not been heard from since," he said. "The fact that Saddam Hussein did not show up for his televised speech today is interesting."

The secretary said the Iraqi regime is so desperate that officials are spreading rumors that the coalition has entered into a cease-fire negotiation with them. "Their goal is to try to convince the people of Iraq that the coalition does not intend to finish the job," he said.

"There are no negotiations taking place with anyone in Saddam Hussein's regime," Rumsfeld continued. "There will be no outcome to this war that leaves Saddam Hussein and his regime in power. His time will end. The only thing that the coalition will discuss with this regime is their unconditional surrender."

In this issue of the



Also view
The Space & Missile Times at
www.vandenberg.af.mil and click
the Space & Missile Times button.



Base Health and Wellness Center staff helps Team V gut it out during WarFit Day March 28.
See Page A4.



Destinations Central Coast heads for San Luis Obispo and a night of swing dancing.
See Page B1.

Weekend forecast
Cloudy with rainshowers Friday.
Chance for showers Saturday.
Low/High
45/62
For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit
www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather

Airmen live alternative lifestyle

By Lt. Col. Douglas Kendall
381st Training Group deputy commander

Most Americans live normal, middle-class lifestyles. They have safe, 9-to-5 jobs. They have nice families with 2.5 kids. They enjoy work-free weekends. They live in the suburbs, etc., etc., etc.

In sum, they are living the American dream – you know what I’m talking about. But you don’t live that way. You may try to fool people into believing you live a “normal” lifestyle, but you don’t ... and all of us military types know it. We can spot you a mile away. Yes, it’s time to come out of the closet and admit it. You’re living an alternative lifestyle ... better known as the Air Force way of life.

The Air Force way of life is very foreign to the civilian population at large. It’s a life of dedication to the mission and fighting America’s wars, especially now! It’s a life of long hours, deployments, family separations, remote assignments, relatively low wages, non-volunteer moves, and more.

Not too attractive, is it? Then why do we have such high morale, a high re-enlistment rate, and such a dedicated force of officers, enlisted, and civilian personnel? Well, for starters, this alternative lifestyle is also about satisfaction in accomplishing a tough mission along side great people – people who share a common set of core values, people you can trust and who trust you. It’s about camaraderie, esprit de

corps, morale, education, travel, and interesting jobs. It’s about experiences in exotic places your Uncle Bob and your high school buddies will never see. It’s about advancement and increased responsibilities. It’s about being judged and promoted for your capabilities and accomplishments, not because of who you know, or what color, sex, or nationality you are. It’s about being an important part of a really big family where each of us learn to be leaders and grow, and...well, you fill in the rest.

Whether you stay in the Air Force for only one term or go for the long haul, every one of you is a patriot. You’re doing more for your country than what 90 percent of the rest of America ever will. Enjoy it! Make the most of it!

It takes some people longer than others to get into this alternative lifestyle.

That is, some insist on bringing their “normal” civilian lifestyle into the Air Force. It’s not an easy life to embrace. However, if you give this alternative lifestyle a chance, I guarantee you’ll enjoy your time in the service much more. So, in order to really step out of the closet and make the most of it, there are four things you should do.

First, be the enthusiastic expert on your job. Learn it inside and out. Become the expert, the go-to guy and initiate improvements. More importantly, do it with attitude ... an enthusiastic attitude. This is the surest road to any success.

Second, get involved. Get involved in unit activities, base activities, church

activities, community activities, and even national military organizations. Volunteer to take charge of an event, a program, or support the person who is taking charge ... do something! I know you can’t do everything, but you can and should do many of these things.

Third, get your family involved. The Air Force spends a lot of time and resources on family areas – housing, recreation and youth centers, commissaries, medical benefits, family programs, etc. – use them. Get them involved with the many base activities – sports, youth activities, spouses clubs, the thrift store, and more. Most importantly, get them involved with your unit – it’s your extended family. If you include them in the experience, they too will enjoy this alternative lifestyle.

And finally, take advantage of the opportunities. There’s a myriad of opportunities in the Air Force. The most important is education – academic, training, and professional – for officers, enlisted, and civilians.

Other opportunities include changing career fields, leading people, career-broadening jobs, experiencing different cultures, and the list goes on.

We all have different opportunities available to us ... you won’t get every one, but you will get many. Seek them out and jump on them!

Yes, we in the military live an alternative lifestyle. It’s not for everyone, but it is for you.

Get into this alternative lifestyle and make the most of it. It really is a great way of life!

Commander's
Action Line

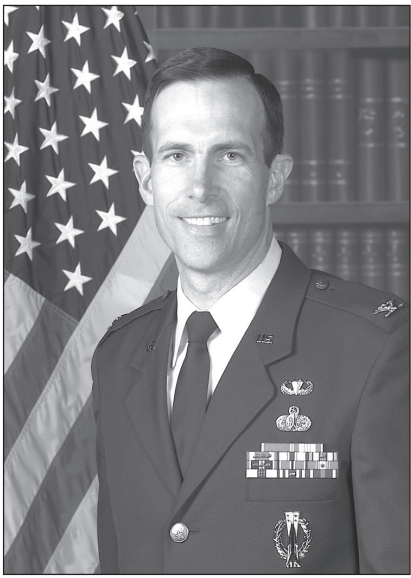


Call 606-7850
or
E-mail your message to
actionline@vandenberg.af.mil

Mission success is our top priority, and the talented men and women of Team Vandenberg get it done with excellence.

While the action line is a great way to communicate, don’t forget to use your chain of command, first sergeants, base services officials and other base professionals first.

Thank you for helping to make Vandenberg such a great place to work and live. When calling the action line,



Col. Robert M. Worley II
Commander

please leave your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

Dear Col. Worley, I would like to recognize Master Sgt. Wayne Harger of the 30th Security Forces Squadron for the selflessness and team spirit he has shown for fellow members of his unit and their families.

As the acting first sergeant for the SFS, he assisted me with medical and mentoring issues involving my teenage son while my husband is deployed to Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea. He assisted by helping put us on the right track with agencies to assist my son with the proper medical treatment. Prior to this we were directed around in circles many times.

His help minimized the stress of medical situations with my son. He listened to my son when he needed someone to talk to. Additionally, Master Sgt. Harger took the time and energy to mentor my son, giving

guidance and advice in his father's absence.

Master Sgt. Harger is truly a credit to the senior NCO corps and in my opinion, would make a great addition to the “Diamond” organization. It’s very rare to find such a quality individual as Master Sgt. Harger. He’s ready to go the extra mile for others, his unit, and those within the unit who need assistance. Although we are not active-duty military, he treated us with dignity and respect and was willing to help in a difficult situation. He works long hours and is still willing to assist families in their time of need. I’d like to see him recognized for his unselfishness.

Thank you Master Sgt. Harger for all your assistance and please thank your family for all their support and devotion.

Sincerely,
Mary and Staff Sgt. John Runnion



The 30th Space Wing Mission:

To provide combat capabilities through launch, range and expeditionary operations.



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For information about the Space & Missile Times, call the staff at (805) 606-2040.

Child Abuse Prevention Month highlights need to protect, intervene

By EILEEN FOX
Vandenberg Family Advocacy

A home should be a place of safety and warmth, but for far too many children, that is not the case. Nationwide statistics show that 10 percent of American families have experienced abuse.

Beneath all the statistics are the faces of children who suffer at the hands of family members, and the adults who live in shame and fear about abusing them.

During April, Child Abuse Prevention Month, this country takes a closer look at what can be done to prevent abuse. This is a formidable task since American culture intensely defends the sanctity of personal privacy and is reluctant to interfere in others' lives.

The challenge hidden within those beliefs is that children are the innocent victims of those values. There comes a time when it's necessary to pierce the veil of privacy, to provide protection for those who cannot provide it for themselves and education for those who were never taught parenting skills.

Intervention is the first step in stopping a cycle of violence. This cycle

is repeated throughout generations as physical, emotional and sexual abuse becomes the normal way to raise a family.

Family Advocacy provides safety first, then support and information for dealing with the problems.

What is Abuse?

Physical abuse is any act that results in injury ranging from a minor bruise to severe trauma.

Neglect happens when a child is not receiving an adequate level of care and supervision. Sexual abuse is when an adult sexually exploits a child.

Emotional abuse is a pattern of verbal interactions that cause the child to feel worthless, unloved and unwanted.

Some common indicators of abuse are lack of trust and fear of adults, frequently missing school, unkempt appearance, and problems with anger, shame, guilt, depression, and self-destructive ideas.

Reporting child abuse and neglect is necessary to protect children. All Air Force personnel are mandated to report suspected abuse.

Call Vandenberg Family Advocacy at 606-8217, or security forces at 606-3911

to report.

The best intervention is provided before an incident occurs. Abuse does not have to be a legacy. Parents who feel they're at risk for committing abuse should take appropriate steps to provide a quality life for themselves and their families.

Many prevention programs are available through family advocacy. Family advocacy nurses provide support, education, home visits, and counseling to all new and expectant parents.

Prevention services include anger management, parenting skills, marriage enrichment, stress management and individual counseling. Family advocacy staff members are available to conduct unit briefings on topics of specific interest.

Child abuse is a legacy that is never pleasant. It's a problem that will not go away on its own. By becoming partners in prevention everyone can provide a safe, environment in which children can grow.

For more information, call family advocacy here at 606-5338.

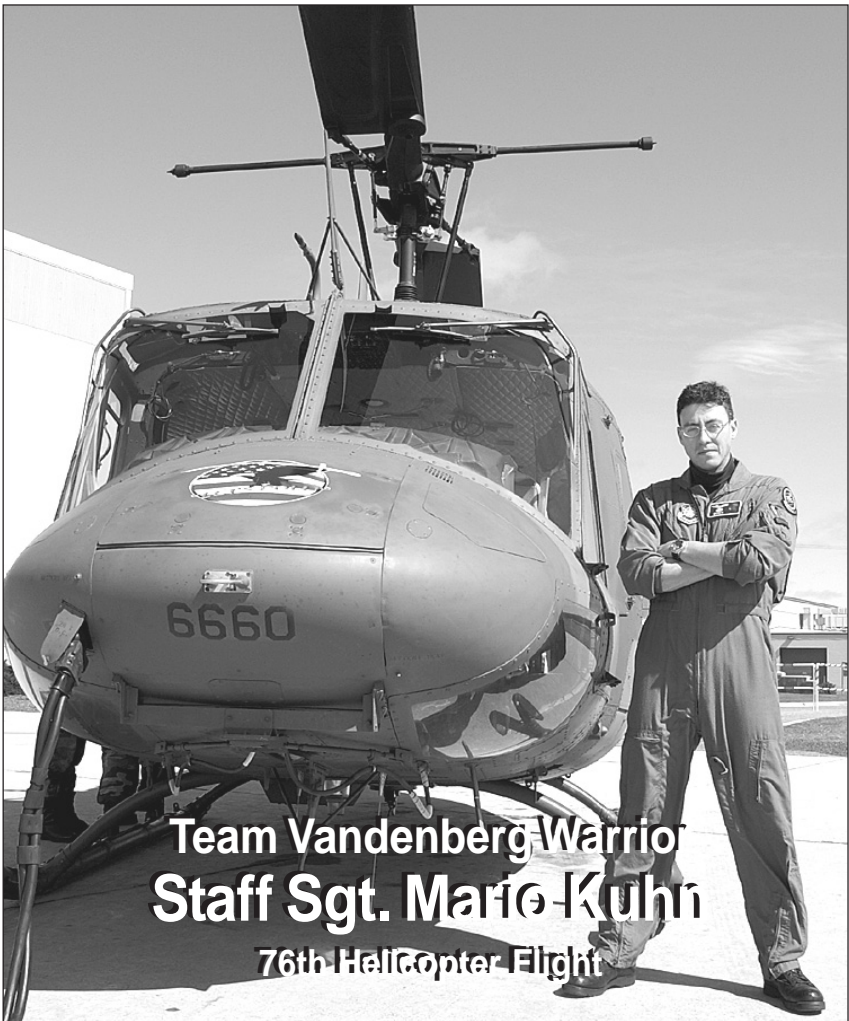


PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

Duty: flight engineer
Hometown: Albuquerque, N.M.
Time in service: 9.5 years
Time on Vandenberg: 2.5 years
Hobbies: playing golf, or, better yet, trying to play golf
Favorite part of the job: "My favorite part of my job is flying. I still can't believe I get paid to fly!"
Education goals: Finish Bachelor of Professional Aeronautics degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Supervisor's comments: "Staff Sgt. Kuhn displays superior professionalism and technical competence," said Maj. Bill Thomas, 76th HF

commander. "He conducts UH1-N helicopter flight engineer responsibilities for range security, photography, wildland fire suppression, distinguished visitor, medical evacuation, night vision goggle, water and land rescue, and daytime tactical and counter-drug operations. He operates forward looking infrared sensors, night sun spotlight, loudspeaker, cargo sling, and hoist equipment. He performs aircraft inspections, calculates weight and balance, calculates takeoff and landing performance data, monitors aircraft performance and systems, and manages aircraft loading and configuration."

Food's on!



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

Diane Zemanovic, Crestview Elementary teacher, serves fish and chips to Lt. Col. Liz Borelli, 30th Weather Squadron commander, and her daughter, Brooke, 7. Crestview teachers waitressed at The Jetty in Lompoc March 26 to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Crimebeat...

COMPILED BY MASTER SGT. WESLEY ASLESON
30th Security Forces Squadron

Mar. 27 Trespassing – 6:41 a.m.
Patrolmen observed a non-base affiliated civilian walking on Coast Road adjacent to Surf Station. Investigation revealed the civilian could not produce identification. He was detained for further questioning by security forces investigators.

Mar. 28 Loud noise – 2:41 p.m.
A military members' spouse reported loud music from a home on Yucca Street. The military resident was requested to lower the volume and she complied.

Assault – 8:30 p.m.
A military member reported a student at Vandenberg Middle School struck his child on March 27.

Loud noise – 8:40 p.m.
A military member reported loud noise from a home on Weston Court. The military resident was contacted to quell the noise and he complied.

Mar. 29 Damaged furniture – 12:38 a.m.
A military member reported observing a chair fall from the third floor balcony at Minuteman Dormitory. Patrolmen responded and discovered a broken patio chair on the first floor. Third floor residents did not identify the person responsible.

Demonstrators – noon
Approximately 40 pro-military supporters staged a demonstration on California Boulevard and Highway 1. Patrolmen were on-scene to monitor compliance of base protest policies. The demonstrators departed at 3:23 p.m. without incident.

Improper base entry – 4:39 p.m.
A civilian employee reported observing two bicyclists enter the installation through the barriers adjacent to the Lompoc Gate while it was closed. Patrolmen responded and detained a military member and a civilian employee. Both were transported to the security forces control center for processing. The military member was released to his commander. The civilian was also released.

Improper base entry – 4:59 p.m.
A patrolman discovered two bicyclists entered the installation

through the barriers adjacent to the Lompoc Gate while it was closed. Both were identified as military members and transported to the security forces control center for processing. Both members were released to their first sergeants.

Juvenile pranks – 11:05 p.m.
A military member reported several juveniles repeatedly banging on the door and ringing the doorbell at his quarters on Juniper Street. Patrolmen responded and located the juveniles. They were identified and transported to their respective military sponsors, who were briefed on the incident.

Mar. 31 Loud noise – 12:28 a.m.
An anonymous caller reported loud noise from a room at Bomarc Dormitory. Patrolmen directed the occupants to quell the noise and they complied.

Improper entry – 8:24 a.m.
The South Gate sentry reported an individual attempting entry to the installation through the Solvang Gate while closed. Patrolmen responded and identified the subject as a contractor. He was cited for unlawful entry.

Tie a yellow ribbon



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

(Front to back) Jennifer Monds and her son, Samuel, 4, Nicole Averitte and Jennifer Dolman, Team Vandenberg spouses, tie yellow ribbons around the oak tree in front of 30th Security Forces Squadron Headquarters here March 26. The yellow ribbon is to show support for all deployed Vandenberg troops.

BRIEFS:

From Page 1
sergeants, a unit representative, or from Senior Master Sgt. Michael Tierney at 606-9815.

FAMILY PORTRAITS

Rollins Photography, a Lompoc professional photography studio, offers free family portraits to all Vandenberg active-duty military families who are "in the bucket" or scheduled to deploy in upcoming Air Expeditionary Force rotations. Families of members currently deployed may also take family photos to send overseas. The photo sessions are by appointment only from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Vandenberg Services Center. To schedule an appointment, call 606-7976.

APPEALS

People who feel their officer or enlisted performance report is incorrect have a course of action to correct the problem. There are two processes for appeals, including the

Evaluation Report Appeal Board and the Air Force Board of Military Records. Air Force Instruction 36-2401, contains information for submitting a claim. It's also available online at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. Call the evaluations office at 606-4778 with questions.

AFOSI BOARD

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations holds its semi-annual officer cross flow board May 1 and 2. Monday is the deadline to have applications to the local AFOSI detachment. All Air Force officers are eligible to cross flow into AFOSI, provided they have no more than 6 years commissioned service time and 12 years total military service time. Interested officers must contact their assignment team at the Air Force Personnel Center to ensure they will be released to AFOSI should the board select them. Call Special Agents Casey Fitzpatrick or Andrew Schad at 606-1852 with questions concerning package requirements.

APPOINTMENT-BASED CARE

The 30th Medical Group is unable to provide walk-in service. Appointments are based on the

level of care each patient requires. Acute appointments are provided within 24 hours, routine appointments within 7 days, and wellness appointments within 28 days of request. For urgent care, consult the TriCare Prime card and call 606-2273. For more information, call Capt. Vernon Swinton at 606-9076.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

All outdoor recreation on Vandenberg is discontinued until further notice. This includes all outdoor recreational activities outside of the main cantonment area. Surf Beach is still open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Monday as is the golf course. For more information, call the fish and wildlife section at 606-6804.

STOP LOSS

With Stop Loss in effect beginning May 2, the Vandenberg Family Support Center is continuing mandatory pre-separation briefings and Transition Assistance Program seminars for airmen previously scheduled to separate or retire. By staying up-to-date on these required sessions, airmen can ensure their plans are not

held up once Stop Loss is lifted. For more information, call Larry Davis at 605-0134.

GRAB AND GO

Breakers Dining Facility offers new Chill Blast Grab and Go items that can be heated in a microwave. They consist of one entree and two side items and are available during all meal periods at Breakers.

CLINIC CLOSURE

The 30th Medical Group is closed for training the fourth Thursday of each month. Those with emergencies, a threat to life, limb or eyesight, should call 911 or report to the nearest emergency room. For urgent care, call (800) 252-3299 or 606-2273.

VENDOR DAY 2003

Various businesses set up promotional display tables from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 17 at the Pacific Coast Club. The displays show what the commercial world has to offer to military members, civil servants, families and contractors. All Vandenberg is invited to attend. Call 606-6439.

Around the Air Force

Scientists, engineers vital to Air Force mission

By STAFF SGT. A.J. BOSKER
Air Force Print News

■WASHINGTON — The Air Force is having difficulty recruiting and retaining its civilian and military scientist and engineering workforce, Gen. Lester Lyles, commander of Air Force Materiel Command, told senators March 31.

If the service wants to retain its position as the world's premier air and space force, it must recruit and retain these scientists and engineers, and provide them with the career guidance and mentorship that will enable the Air Force to meet its 21st century challenges, Lyles said during a Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee on emerging threats and capabilities hearing.

Over the next seven years, the Air Force will invest nearly a third of a billion dollars to support the retention and reshaping of its technological workforce, he said in a written statement.

This investment will fund several initiatives that address both civilian and military recruitment and retention issues.

The Air Force Research Laboratory, which falls under Lyles' command, was the first to take advantage of legislation allowing the Air Force to experiment with alternative personnel management systems for civilian scientists and engineers.

"The result was a simplified classification system, broadband pay levels and contribution-based compensation that gave us the flexibility needed to compete with private industry for critical science and engineering talent and properly compensate our high contributors," the general said.

According to Lyles, the Air Force has also had great difficulty recruiting minority scientists and engineers. To combat this, AFMC

implemented a command-wide recruitment program targeting these highly sought-after candidates.

Air Force science and technology representatives attend national career fairs and conferences to promote Air Force opportunities and collect resumes. The collected resumes are given to the appropriate civilian personnel offices and provide a ready-made source of high-quality applicants, he said.

Other civilian initiatives also under way include the recruitment of college students with critical science and engineering skills via recruiting incentives, robust marketing efforts, and a co-op central funding program that hires college students while they are still in school, he said.

Continued support for central funding of recruitment bonus and retention allowances for journeyman-level scientists and engineers also promises to help civilian recruitment and retention, Lyles said.

On the military side, the Air Force is using the Airman Education and Commissioning Program and the Technical Degree Sponsorship Program to recruit additional scientists and engineers into the military workforce.

In addition, the Air Force is examining several possible bonus programs to add to current initiatives, such as the Critical Skills Retention Bonus, which are essential to Air Force efforts to increase the number of military scientists and engineers, he said.

Troops hope their work doesn't come home

By STAFF SGT. KRISTINA BARRETT
457th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

■OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM — They descended on a forward-deployed location with one focus: building bombs. Not just any bombs. They wanted to build the kind that don't come back. It is the

lifeblood of any ammo troop.

They didn't build for two weeks, just long enough for them to get antsy, wondering when they would get their chance. They conducted routine operations until they could build. But being in ammo is not about paperwork.

It is about building things that go "BOOM."

Once the word came down, the crews hunkered down, braved the weather and started building, and they have not stopped yet. Because the bombs they are building have not come back.

For these airmen from the 5th Munitions Squadron at Minot AFB, N.D., there is nothing worse than building a bomb and then taking it apart to go back into the stockpile.

"Watching an aircraft come back empty is the ultimate in job satisfaction," said Master Sgt. Stephen Sims. "We build, they bomb - that's the mission and the mission wouldn't happen if it wasn't for our bombs."

Sims' office is the build pad, where every bomb starts its life, and his job title is production supervisor, but everyone calls him the "pad dad." The pad dad controls everything, from safety to munitions control. The build pad is where the squadron's hard work comes together, culminating into the reason for their being and producing what they've been training for.

For the ammo airmen, training is very much a part of the daily grind in the bomb dump. Their mission here has been successful so far thanks to "Ammo Warrior," a monthly training exercise at Minot.

"Ammo Warrior is a generation exercise that keeps us proficient and prepares us for the real world," said 1st Lt. Francisco Vega, munitions flight commander. "If we're not deployed, we're training to deploy."

As the building continues, spirits remain high. Every B-52 that

Sisters in arms



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Master Sgt. Denise Young (center), 30th Contracting Squadron, is deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She has been in place since November 2002.

returns from a mission and taxis by the build pad is greeted by ammo troops welcoming the crew home and a large flag waving proudly over the pad. (*Courtesy of AFPN*)

Leaders welcome independent academy review

By MASTER SGT. SCOTT ELLIOTT
Air Force Print News

■WASHINGTON — Even as the Air Force takes its first steps toward correcting problems that led to allegations of sexual assault at its academy, the service's leaders told lawmakers they would welcome a third-party investigation.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper met with members of the Senate Armed Services Committee March 31, updating them on their agenda for change at the institution.

Since January, a team led by Air Force General Counsel Mary Walker has investigated 56 cases of alleged rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment at the Academy.

"We are appalled and embarrassed by what we have found," Roche said.

The Air Force investigation completed a comprehensive review of the academy's programs and practices of deterring and responding to sexual-assault incidents, Roche said. Besides the general counsel's investigation, the allegations are being reviewed by the Department of Defense's inspector general and the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"When the (inspector general) was asked to join, we had hoped they would ensure there was no sense that the Air Force was covering anything up," the secretary said.

Roche said the investigation's preliminary findings include a misplaced sense of loyalty among cadets.

"Many cadets are loyal to each other, rather than loyal to the values of our Air Force and the values of our country," he said. "In other words, they'd protect each other even when they know of incidents" they should report.

Roche said the investigation revealed repeated indications that

the cadets' unwillingness to report a fellow cadet suggests a fear of ostracism and a belief that reporting criminal acts is inconsistent with the "cadet culture."

Other issues uncovered by the investigation include poor feedback procedures for victims of sexual assault, a discrepancy in terminology concerning alcohol use, and sexual humor.

While absolving current academy leadership of responsibility, Roche and Jumper have announced plans to replace both the superintendent, Lt. Gen. John Dallager, and commandant, Brig. Gen. S. Taco Gilbert III, before the next class reports.

"While these officers should be replaced, due process suggests there is nothing about which you can accuse them of in the last 18 months," Roche said. "We're going to have a new climate, and we need to have new people in place."

"Once we have these initial steps in place, then I'm quite content to raise the issue of an independent review with the academy's Board of Visitors," Roche said. "At that point, if we need to bring in outsiders, we can do that."

WarFit!



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

Left: Craig Cisek, 30th Space Communications Squadron, pumps out some crunches during Vandenberg's WarFit Day March 28. Above: Team Vandenberg runners make several laps around the youth soccer fields following a calisthenics workout on WarFit Day March 28. WarFit Day activities culminated in walking, running and bike riding near the fitness center.

Intramural Sports



Bump, set, spike



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

Left: No. 4 Georgiana Mara, 30th Contracting Squadron, concentrates on her serve in a match against the 30th Operations Group Monday. Above: No. 5 Mark Brady, 30th CONS, slams the ball over the net as No. 39 Eric Staub, 30th OG, defends during the first intramural volleyball game of the season Monday. The 30th OG team beat 30th CONS 25-11 and 25-12 in consecutive matches.

SPACE & MISSILE

FEATURES

Destinations Central Coast @ Chumash dance hall

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

As usual, my trip begins by chasing my two lovely daughters around the house getting them ready for the evening.

This time though, we got to drop them off at a babysitter instead of taking them with my wife, Carla, and me.

Carla and I were going to San Luis Obispo to take swing-dance lessons and listen to a jazz band at California's Polytechnic State University and we were running late.

According to my watch, it was 6:15 p.m. and we had 45 minutes to get to SLO before the lessons started.

Arriving in town, we stopped to ask for directions to CalPoly. My watch now read 6:55.

As Carla and I drove through the rain to the campus, we heard a crash behind us.

"I think we were just hit," Carla said.

Of course I argued saying, "We couldn't have been hit."

Nonetheless, to please my wife, I pulled over to a parking lot and got out to see if she was right. Long story short, she was right.

There was a brand new long streak down the side of our two-week-old car. As my head began spinning on top of my shoulders in the rain, a pizza deliveryman came up to apologize for the accident. With my mind still set on dance lessons, I quickly thanked him for stopping and told him not to worry about it.

Finally arriving at CalPoly and locating Chumash Auditorium, we realized that the nearest parking



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS

Jesse and Candy Giarhart twirl each other around California Polytechnic State University's Chumash Auditorium. The two give swing-dance lessons before University Jazz Band concerts at CalPoly each month.

lot was more than a quarter of a mile away and we didn't have an umbrella!

Soaking wet, we made it to the front door of the auditorium where a cashier asked, "Rough night?" Mustering the most believable no I could, I paid our \$14 and walked in.

By then, more than 30 couples had arrived, braving the weather, to take swing-dance lessons and enjoy the University Jazz Band

concert that followed.

Michael Beitunson, a retired teacher, said he's been taking lessons for years and he enjoys the atmosphere.

"It's nice to be around young people," he said. "They give off such great energy."

Even though we were late for the lessons it didn't keep us from watching the rest of the group having a great time. Couples formed a circle

surrounding the instructors, Jesse and Candy Giarhart, who taught basic swing-dance steps.

After they demonstrated a dance move step-by-step, the group then made their own attempt.

Jesse called out cadence so the group could keep in step. Once students got the hang of the movement he called, "Switch!"

And all the ladies in the room changed partners.



Jesse and Candy demonstrate several moves during their lessons.

"Social dancing is the best and most enjoyable way to get better," Jesse said. "Dancing with different people and to different types of music makes you a well rounded dancer."

Once lessons were over, the fun began. The lights went down. The jazz band began playing and the dance floor filled.

Hearing the band made my feet want to jump up and start dancing, but my brain knew that I would only make a fool of myself.

Jesse and Candy, however, looked as if their feet had wings as they flew around the dance floor.

Carla and I watched the dancers for more than an hour. They stopped only long enough for the band to change tunes.

My watch now read 9:20 p.m. and I knew that it was time for us to go rescue the babysitter. The rain had subsided, giving us the chance to walk instead of run to the car.

"I have always wanted to learn to swing dance and listen to a live band," Carla said.

I couldn't agree more. Although we didn't take part in the lessons this time, I knew it would be something

I wouldn't mind trying again sometime. Especially if my feet are dry.

All the proceeds from the lessons go to support the University Jazz Band. The next concert and lesson take place at 7 p.m. Apr. 11 in Chumash Auditorium.

To get there, head north on Highway 101 to San Luis Obispo. Take the Monterey Street exit and turn right then left onto Frontage Road. Turn right on Grand Avenue and the university visitor's center is on the right.

Visitors are required to check in at the center where they can also pick up directions to Chumash Auditorium.

Community Calendar

4

FRI

Salad for Soldiers – military families can get free vegetables from noon to 7 p.m. today at the Santa Maria Fair Park, and in Vandenberg Village at 3734 Constellation Rd.

Baby photo contest – Send baby pictures to the Vandenberg Commissary's customer service office through April 17. Winners receive a \$25 shopping spree.

Volunteers needed – to provide security at the Special Olympics Southern California. To sign up now, call Master Sgt. Mike Brown at 605-6281 or e-mail him at michael.brown.t@vandenberg.af.mil. Permissive temporary duty is authorized.

Marriage enrichment counseling – offered on a one-on-one basis for married and unmarried couples. Call 606-9958.

"Measure for Measure" – plays through April 13 in the Severson Theatre. Call (805)928-7731.

4

FRI

Volunteers needed – The Veteran Long Beach Healthcare System needs volunteers for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games July 5-9. Call (562)826-8000, to sign up now.

4

FRI

CCAF finishing requirements online – Students pursuing a Community College of the Air Force degree can take advantage of distance learning opportunities provided by participating accredited institutions through the CCAF Web site at http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/ccaf/ge_init/. Applicable courses have been reviewed and approved by CCAF.

Yellowstone National Park lodging – Military members, civil servants and their families visiting Yellowstone National Park can rent six-person trailers at reduced rates. Phone-in reservations now for May and June bookings, May 1 for July, and June 3 for August and September. Call (208) 828-6333 for reservations.

GI Java seeks musicians – GI Java is looking for local musicians to play at the coffee house during business hours. Solo performers and bands are welcome. Call Chaplain (1st Lt.) Mike Martin at 606-5778 for an audition.

Gift of Groceries program – The Defense Commissary Agency

4

FRI

offers a gift certificate program that allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates, which can be donated to military families through charitable organizations or given directly to military friends and family to use at local commissaries. Gift certificates can be purchased online at www.commissaries.com.

The Vandenberg Airmen's Attic - needs donations of items necessary to set up a household. The program is open to military personnel E-5 and below with an Air Force Form 552 from their first sergeant. Call 606-5484.

Dads-to-New Dads and Moms-to-New Moms programs – These mentorship programs offer support to new moms and dads. Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338.

Free car seats – available for single-income families E-4 and below. Call 606-5338.

Investment basics class – 11 a.m. to noon today at the Vandenberg Family Support Center. The class offers information on enrollment, investment vehicles,

5

SAT

and more. Call 606-4491.

Allan Hancock College nursing career workshop – 10 a.m. to noon Saturday in the forum, building C, room 40 on the Santa Maria campus. Applications for the college's January 2004 nursing programs are available at this free workshop. Call (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3384.

Harbor and boat cruises – at Adventure Marina in Morro Bay. Call (805) 772-9463.

Twilight beach horseback rides – at Pacific Dunes Ranch in Oceano. Beginners are welcome. Call (805) 489-8100.

Office closure – The family support center is closed for staff training every Monday from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Those requiring emergency Air Force Aid will be assisted. Call 606-0801.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) – 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at the Vandenberg Health and Wellness Center. Call the HAWC at 606-2221.

Relaxation room – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at the HAWC. Call 606-2221.

3-Day TAP Seminar – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday at the family support center. The

8

TUE

TAP is highly recommended for those separating or retiring from the military within the next year. Call 606-0801.

Pre-separation briefing – 8 a.m. Tuesdays in the family support center. The briefing is required 90 days prior to leaving the service. Call 606-0801.

Single Parents' Support Group – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Vandenberg Services Center. Call 606-9958.

Joint Retiree Activities Center – Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday - Friday in building 10346 in the Vandenberg Base Exchange shopping center. Call 606-5474.

National Society of Military Widows meeting – 1 p.m. Wednesday at the retiree activities center. Call 606-5474.

Depression management group - 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays at the Vandenberg Life Skills Support Center. New groups begin every 6-8 weeks. The group is open to active-duty members and their dependents. It's appropriate for adults or mature adolescents experiencing depression.

11

FRI

Call Capt. Arlin Hatch or the LSSC staff at 606-8217.

Bundles for Babies – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 11, in the family support center. Parents can learn parenting skills, meet other expectant parents and receive a free gift. Call 606-0801.

Swing dancing – 7 p.m. April 11, at Chumash Auditorium at Cal Poly University.

Allan Hancock College pottery sale – noon to 4 p.m. April 11 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 12 in the student center conference room on the Santa Maria campus. Call (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3252.

10th Annual Al Smith Day – 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 13, at the Swanton Pacific Ranch near Santa Cruz. For more information, call Teresa Hendrix at (805) 756-7266.

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics luncheon – 11:30 a.m. April 16 at the Pacific Coast Club. Tickets are \$10. For information call 2nd Lt. John Morris at 733-1856.

Children's Appreciation Day – 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. April 18 at the Vandenberg Commissary. Food and games will be provided.

Chapel Services & Events

For other denomination worship services and events, call the chapel at 606-5773.

- ♦ **G.I. Java** – This free coffee house is open 5 to 9 p.m. daily for dorm residents.
- ♦ **Catholic Lenten fellowship** – Each Friday during Lent a soup and bread meal is served at 5 p.m. in the Chapel 1 Annex. The Stations of the Cross follow the meal at 6 p.m. in Chapel 1.
- ♦ **Protestant and Catholic Lenten devotions** – 11:30 a.m. in Chapel 1 for Protestants and Chapel 2 for Catholics Wednesdays during Lent. Both events are followed by soup and bread fellowship

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship, Chapel 2
10 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 1
11:30 a.m. Traditional Protestant, Chapel 1
11:30 a.m. Gospel, Chapel 2

Monday - Friday

11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2

Saturday

5 p.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2

at noon in the Pacific Coast Club.

♦ **Torah study** – 7 p.m. Sundays in Lompoc. Call 605-7564 or 736-5822 for more information. Everyone is welcome.

♦ **Volunteers needed** – to mow lawns for spouses of deployed members. Call 606-5773 or 606-0039 for more information.

♦ **Monthly Prayer Breakfast** – 6:30 a.m. Thursday at the Chapel 1 Annex.

♦ **Easter Egg hunt** – 2 to 4 p.m. April 13 at the Religious Education Complex. Call 606-5773.

DID YOU KNOW :

■ In accordance with the California Vehicle Code, no driver of a vehicle shall operate, or permit operation of, any sound amplification system which can be heard outside the vehicle from 50 or more feet when the vehicle

is being operated upon a highway unless that system is being used as a warning device. This doesn't apply to authorized emergency vehicles or vehicles operated by gas, electric, communications, or water utilities.

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES

WANTS YOUR

Destinations Central Coast

Have you visited a Central Coast destination lately? Share it with the rest of Team VI! Send in a 400 - 600 word rough draft about your adventure! Send submissions to: space&missiletimes@vandenberg.af.mil